

READING COMPREHENSION

Christopher Columbus



Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1451. He was a sailor and an explorer, and his ambition was to travel west to Asia. In the 15th century, Asia was important for commerce, and a lot of sailors went there. They always sailed east, and their journey was long and dangerous. Columbus believed that the world was round, and that the short route to Asia was west.

In 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain gave Columbus money for his journey. Three ships, the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa María*, left Spain on 3rd August 1492. The journey was very long, but after two months, they arrived on an island in the Caribbean. Columbus and his sailors called the island San Salvador (Holy Saviour). Columbus thought he was in India, and that the people on the island were Indians. He returned to Spain a hero, and he brought gold, animals, and new plants to Europe.



Columbus's journey was important because he discovered the New World – the world of the Americas. Today, the US has a holiday on 12th October to celebrate Christopher Columbus's first journey to the New World. It's called Columbus Day.

Reading

1 Read the text. Then complete the sentences with information from the text.

Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy.

- 1 He thought that it was possible to sail _____ from Europe to Asia.
- 2 Columbus and his sailors travelled from Spain in _____ ships.
- 3 After two months, they arrived on an island in the _____.
- 4 Columbus thought he was in _____.
- 5 He brought back gold, animals, and new _____ to Europe.
- 6 Today, people in the US celebrate his life on _____.